

27 JUN 2001

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the subject application as follows:

pre  
amdt  
3/a  
9/28/01

USM1901

5 PCT/GB99/04103

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Cancel claims 1 to ~~21~~<sup>18</sup> and add the following claims

10 ~~22. A material suitable for use in the manufacture of a~~  
~~shoe stiffener comprising a layer of a stiffener composition~~  
~~disposed between two layers of sheet material, the stiffener~~  
~~composition including a polymeric material which is stiff at~~  
~~ambient temperature and is pliable, adhesive and flowable~~  
~~under pressure at an elevated temperature, at least one of~~  
~~said layers of sheet material having openings therein of such~~  
~~a size so when the stiffener composition is heated to said~~  
~~elevated temperature, the stiffener can be readily manipulated~~  
~~and positioned in a shoe upper and thereafter subjected to~~  
~~pressure to cause enough of said polymeric material to flow~~  
~~through the openings in the sheet material and adhere to the~~  
~~adjacent shoe upper material, whereby to bond the stiffener in~~  
~~the shoe.~~

25 ~~23. A material according to claim ~~22~~<sup>18</sup> wherein said ele-~~  
~~vated temperature is between 50°C and 90°C, said openings~~  
~~having a size range from 0.15 mm<sup>2</sup> to 5 mm<sup>2</sup> and the melt viscos-~~  
~~ity of the polymeric material measured at 100°C being in the~~  
~~range of 100 PAS to 10,000 Pas.~~

30 ~~24. A material suitable for use in the manufacture of a~~  
~~shoe stiffener comprising;~~